

## MINUTES

### **Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 721 Foster Street Durham, NC 27701**

Meeting Number: 05 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: June 18, 2009

#### **Advisory Board Present:**

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair  
Neil Frank- At Large  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD  
Becky Heron- County Commissioner  
Aileen Glasgow- Business Representative  
Bo Glenn- Open Space & Trails Representative

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson- Director Soil & Water  
Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water  
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water  
Lynwood Faison, Soil & Water  
Jane Korest, Open Space Manager  
Wendy Seddon, Open Space & Real-estate  
Tony Kleese- consultant

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday June 18, 2009, and called to order at 8:10 am by the vice chairman. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.*

- 1. Minutes** – A draft copy of March 2009 and April 2009 minutes were sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Neil Frank to approve the minutes. Aileen Glasgow seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** A Farmland Protection Advisory Board financial report was given by Lisa Marochak. A motion was made by Bo Glenn to allow the staff to spend the remaining funds available to purchase needed supplies. Vice Chairman Neil Frank seconded motion. Motion passed without dissent.  
Jane Korest gave an update on the Capital Improvement Plan. The County Managers final budget that is slated to be approved next Monday night has the full \$550,000 for Open Space and Farmland for next FY budget. On May 11<sup>th</sup> the Board of County Commissioners approved options on the Van Ellis Farm, J.R. Coates Farm and Carrington Farm. The action from the commissioners helps us to be able to set aside \$430,000 for our part to honor the options.
- 3. Farmland Tour Update**–Kathryn Spann gave an update on the Farmland Tour held April 16<sup>th</sup>.  
County Commissioner Becky Heron suggested that next spring we could have another tour and invite the local legislators.  
A motion was made by Beck Heron to allow Chair Kathryn Spann to write a letter to the legislators on behalf of the board asking for State funding for the Farmland Protection Board and Agricultural development funding. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 4. VAD Update-** Eddie Culberson reported that there are no new VAD applications since the last meeting.
- 5. Easement Projects Status Update** – Jane Korest reported that the remaining easements on Roger Tilley’s farm will be closed in 3 separate easements due to the different funding

sources. Next week they will be closing on two of the three easements. The two easements are the ones funded solely with the State funds.

Federal reviewers have approved the easement materials for the McFarland farm, and are just awaiting revisions of the appraisal.

The surveyor is lined up on the Caywood Farm. The surveyor will need to meet with the Franks and then they can get started.

Jane Korest and Wendy Seddon have met with Billy Blalock, Francis Terry and Patty Byrd to give them some guidance on some issues that they need to be resolving to continue to make themselves stronger candidates for the fall.

The last week in April the State came out and visited the Carrington Farm and Van Ellis Farm. Only the top half of the projects from each region was visited. Unfortunately they found out last week that they did not get the State grants for the Carrington or Van Ellis Farms. There were 45 projects and only 10 were funded across the State.

- 6. Farmland Plan Update** – Tony Kleese passed out an updated progress report on the Farmland Plan. He is working with Gerry Cohn on the Durham County Farmland Protection Plan. Tony Kleese answered questions from the Farmland Board Members.
- 7. Need for Farmland Protection Ordinance-** Kathryn Spann reported that there is a need for Ag zoning in Durham County
- 8. Falls Lake:** Jennifer Brooks reported that most of Durham County is in the Falls Lake Watershed except for the Southern portion. Division of Water Resources (DWQ) is developing a watershed study or watershed plan in the future. Like the Neuse River Watershed plan, there will be new riparian buffer rules, which will affect people that live within the watershed especially farmers. Much of the nutrient impairment in the lake is being attributed to agricultural uses. The next Falls Lake meeting is scheduled for today 1pm-4pm and another meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> 1pm-4pm. Anyone that lives in the Falls Lake Watershed especially farmers should try to attend one of the meetings.
- 9. Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, July 16th at 8:00am
- 10. Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 9:51am.

*Kathryn Spann*  
Chairman

*Neil Frank*  
Vice Chairman